Nixon Vows to Support GOP Hill Candidates

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon yesterday pledged full support to Republican candidates and said that he would continue his own grass-roots campaign to win public support.

The President met for more than an hour with Republican National Chairman George Bush, Sen. Bill Brock (Tenn.), chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, and Rep. Robert H. Michel (Ill.), chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, on this year's elections.

The President told the group he would address the fund-raising dinner to be held here Wednesday evening to raise money for Republican House and Senate candidates.

Earlier, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that reaction to the President's recent apperances in Chicago, Nashville and Houston had been "extremely good" and that the President will continue to "speak out" in his defense.

The President will continue to speak on the presidency and his struggle to avoid impeachment as well as on foreign and domestic issues, Ziegler said. He announced no other speaking engagements, however, except the Wednesday appearance here.

At the meeting with GOP leaders, the second of its kind this year, the President raised the question of when the House might act on the impeachment issue, Brock said after the session. When Michel said that he hoped the House would act "by June" but was not optimistic, the President said he hoped the House could do better than that, Brock said.

The President promised to do whatever he could to help Republican candidates and said he would be governed in each district by the candidate's wishes, Brock said.

The group expressed optimism about the chance of James M. Sparling, the GOP nominee in Michigan's 8th District, to win the House seat vacated by Rep. James Harvey, a Republican, who resigned to become a federal judge.

Sparling will be opposed in the April 16 special election by Democratic state Rep. J. Robert Traxler.

Brock said that "we talked about fund-rasing in general" for GOP candidates and discussed the problem posed by "the huge sums of money labor is willing to spend" for Democratic candidates.

Many political experts believe Mr. Nixon when he says he wants the impeachment issue resolved this summer, because they think Republican chances in November are extremely poor and that his troops will be beaten.

Historically, as Franklin D. Roosevelt learned in 1938 and as Dwight D. Eisenhower learned in 1958, the sixth year of any administration is a bad year for incumbents.

This year the usual wave of opposition is strengthened by Watergate and other charges of scandal against the administration.

Ziegler said that the White House has agreed to a request to waive the lawyer-client relationship so two lawyers who worked on Mr. Nixon's taxes can testify about an April 10, 1970, meeting with the President. At the President's request, the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation is conducting a study of the President's tax returns.

The lawyers are Frank DeMarco Jr. and Herbert W Kalmbach, who assisted the President in preparing his tax returns.

Ziegler attacked as "out of context" and "partisan-motivated" what he called leaks from the committee indicating it also was investigating the President's 1968 returns.

The Baltimore Sun said that the Internal Revenue Service is conducting an inquiry into tax returns filed by Mr. Nixon before he became President. The leaks are creating "misleading, absolutely erroneous impressions about the President," Ziegler said.